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AN
ANNUAL EXHIBITION
FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA MEETING
OF THE
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

A.M.L.

The undersigned, Chairman and Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements of the American Medical Association, have been authorized to invite attention to the project of an exhibition of objects interesting to the medical profession, to be held in Philadelphia during the next session of the Association. This exhibition has been suggested as a desirable amplification of what has been customary on these occasions; and is expected to resemble, more or less, the displays of this kind which are prominent features of the annual meetings of the British Medical Association.

In accordance with this determination to have an exhibition on the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th of May, 1872, during the next Session of the Association, the Committee of Arrangements would respectfully and earnestly appeal for contributions of objects to be exhibited—and for other available co-operation—to members of the medical profession, pharmacists and manufacturers of chemicals, to opticians, instrument makers, publishers and booksellers, and to all others who are concerned in manufacturing or dealing in anything related to the study and practice of medicine and surgery and the associate sciences.

They will gratefully receive choice specimens and examples

(likely to prove interesting through novelty, rarity, importance or superior character) of drugs, medicines, and other remedial appliances—including special chemicals and pharmaceutical compounds and materials—as well as the apparatus employed in pharmaceutical and chemical processes; also of optical and other instruments of observation and precision; of surgical instruments and implements; of preparations and objects in natural history, including human and comparative anatomy, morbid or healthy; of models, drawings, paintings, prints, and of printed works—of recent date or standard character—on medicine, surgery, and the associate sciences.

The views of the committee, in regard to the materials and the general nature and purpose of the exhibition, may be understood from the following paragraphs of the original announcement:

“The aim of the committee will be, in this attempt, to provide for the practical and scientific entertainment of the members of the Association. Their design is to form a collection of instruments, apparatus, specimens, preparations, models, drawings, plates, books, and all other proper objects that may be obtained or presented in good time for the purpose; and so to arrange it for exhibition as to bring it under the convenient observation of every delegate and professional visitor. They hope, in this manner, without any sacrifice of the usual regard for their guests, to give to the arrangements as much of a professional character as may be in their power. Their desire is to aid in advancing the practical interests of the Association, by affording, through an always useful channel, some more direct means, as well as signs, of technical and scientific progress, as an attractive addition to the ordinary routine of written and verbal communications and discussions.

“They cannot promise much success in a first experiment—undertaken at unavoidably short notice—beyond that of the pioneer in preparing the way for something better in the fu-

ture, in the light of experience, and with more time and opportunity for concerted action.

"No mere display of local wealth and variety of means and appliances, or of individual superiority, will be encouraged beyond what is entirely incidental to the general purpose; nor will there be any attempt on the part of the committee to present representative or historical collections, although such collections may be cordially welcomed. Competition and completeness, therefore, are not to be expected. No special reports or comparative statements need be looked for; nor will the committee be responsible for the merits or demerits of the several objects exhibited, although obliged to exercise control as to admission and location. Novelty, rarity, and practical character will necessarily have weight in determining precedence; but not at the expense of whatever may be deemed especially characteristic or interesting, whether old, rare, or new. In a word, under their limitation of time, space, and means, they cannot undertake a general exposition or an industrial fair. Further and more specific details will be published as soon as practicable.

"The committee confidently hope for encouragement and assistance, in an early practical response from their professional brethren, and from others who may have objects of interest to offer. They are bound to remind all concerned, however, that the contemplated collection must of necessity be, as much as practicable, select and characteristic rather than varied and extensive. It ought to be comprehensive, but can hardly be very full."

The committee trust, moreover, that their hesitation to undertake a very general exhibition will be attributed rather to a natural doubt of their power to accomplish the work with the means at their disposal, than to any disinclination or indifference as to the result. The present call has been issued at the earliest practicable moment, in the hope of securing a

sufficiently prompt attention, from all parties, to enable them to do justice to the distant contributors, whom they are still apprehensive of being unable to reach in proper time.

The general plan of arrangement, and amount of space to be allotted to the several departments and collections, will have to be decided by the end of March; and all the objects to be exhibited must be within reach of the committee by the second or third week of April next.

In order, therefore, to prevent confusion and disappointment, lists of objects offered for exhibition, and estimates of the amount of space desired for the purpose, will be required as soon as practicable after the publication of this circular.

Communications addressed to Wm. Pepper, M.D., 1215 Walnut Street, and F. F. Maury, M.D., 1218 Walnut Street, the Sub-Committee on the Exhibition, will receive immediate attention.

EDWARD HARTSHORNE, M.D.,
Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements,
 1439 Walnut St., Philadelphia.

[Attest, Jan. 20th, 1872.]

D. MURRAY CHESTON, M.D., *Secretary,*
 25 S. 16th St., Philadelphia.